

Appl. No.: 10/524,710

Amdt. Dated November 21, 2007

Response to Office Action Mailed August 24, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A driver structure configured to drive a U-character shaped staple including a pair of leg portions configured to pass through a bundle of papers and a crown for connecting the pair of leg portions, the driver structure comprising:

a blade edge disposed to be in contact with the staple;

a first pair of projections, each projection of said first pair being provided at an opposite end portion of the blade edge, and being disposed to be in contact with a corner formed between the crown and one of the leg portions for pressing the leg portion perpendicularly when the leg portion passes through the bundle of papers; and

a second pair of projections, each projection of said second pair being provided on the blade edge in vicinity of one of the projections of said first pair, and being configured to be in contact with the crown in vicinity of one of the leg portions when the leg portion passes through the bundle of papers; and

a middle projection provided on the blade edge between the projections of said second pair, to hold the crown of the staple when the pair of leg portions pass through the bundle of papers.

wherein each projection of said second pair has a corner portion disposed adjacent to one of the corners of the staple, which engages with the crown and is configured to prevent the corner of the staple from slipping toward a central side of the crown, and

wherein each projection of said first pair has a guiding surface positioned at least partially outside of an outside edge of one of the leg portions, so as to guide said outside edge of the leg portion and restrict the broadening of a leading end of the leg portion when the leg portion of the staple passes through the bundle of papers.

2-3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) The driver structure according to ~~claim 3~~, claim 1, wherein the middle projection comprises a crown pressing portion to press the crown.